away with the minimum capitalisation norm of US$ 100 million for cars and US$ 25 million for two and three wheelers;

(b) if so, the reasons for removing the capitalisation norms; and

(c) the measures Government are taking or the incentives that Government are giving or proposing to give to the vehicles operating with batteries or other non-conventional fuels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) In respect of joint ventures of car manufacturing units involving majority foreign equity ownership, a minimum foreign equity of US$ 50 million was required. This requirement was however removed with the removal of Quantitative Restrictions *w.e.f.*, 1.4.2001.

(c) As per Auto Policy, announced by the Government on 7.3.2002, an appropriate long term fiscal structure shall be put in place to facilitate the acceptance and development of hybrid and Battery Operated Vehicles (BOVs). Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) is promoting the development and manufacture of non-polluting environmentally benign Battery Operated Vehicles in the country under the Alternative Fuels for Surface Transportation (AFST) programme. They are providing subsidy on the battery driven 10-seater and bigger passenger vehicles upto 50 per cent of the cost of the vehicles exclusive of customs duty, sales tax and all other levies.

Steps to improve the working of loss making PSEs

3009. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken during the last one year to make the loss incurring Public Sector Enterprises viable;

(b) the number of PSEs which are still loss making; and

(c) the action proposed to improve their working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2000-2001 which was laid in the Parliament on 7.3.2002 and is a published document, there are 111 loss making Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) as on 31.3.2001. The performance improvement is a continuous process. Enterprise specific steps are taken by the administrative Ministries/Departments/Management of the PSUs from time to time. Some of the steps taken/being taken include managerial and financial restructuring, formation of joint ventures, upgradation of technology, modernization of plants and machinery, cost control measures, rationalization of manpower, improved marketing strategies etc. as the case may be.

Increase in Pahari programmes from Srinagar and Jammu

3010. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pahari programmes from Srinagar as well as from Jammu Radio Stations are broadcast for half an hour daily;

(b) whether on the pattern of Gojri Programme, its time may be increased from half an hour to one hour daily as per the demand of ten lakh Pahari-speaking population;

(c) whether for collecting, projecting and broadcasting Pahari programme from Srinagar and Jammu Radio Stations, Pahari knowing operators would be employed for extending justice to this popular language and its listeners; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that Radio Kashmir, Srinagar broadcasts Pahari programmes for half an hour daily, except on Thursdays when it is broadcast for 45 minutes. Radio Kashmir, Jammu also relays these programmes. Due to ban on creation of posts, financial and various other infrastructural constraints, it has not been possible to increase the duration of the programme. The Senior Announcer who is well